IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An e-mail-enabled automation control module (ACM) system comprising:

an ACM; and

an e-mail system electrically connected to said ACM that is configured to automatically control at least one device without user intervention and that is coupled to a backplane, said e-mail system configured to perform at least one of sending e-mail messages from said ACM through a network, and receiving e-mail messages from the network, said e-mail system comprises at least one mailbox configured to store at least one e-mail message, said e-mail system further configured to allow at least one of a user that is connected to said e-mail system through the network and the at least one device to perform at least one of read, modify, and delete the e-mail messages stored in said at least one mailbox.

2. (previously presented) An ACM system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the e-mail messages include ACM data.

3. (previously presented) An ACM system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the e-mail messages include ACM notifications.

4. (previously presented) An ACM system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the e-mail messages include at least one of ACM data, and ACM notifications from at least one of another ACM and another device.

5. (previously presented) An ACM system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said e-mail system comprises a network interface configured for connection to the network.

6. (previously presented) An ACM system in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said e-mail system comprises an e-mail client configured to send the e-mail messages through said network interface and the network.